

APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

ON INVENTION FOR:

DEVICE FOR PREVENTING UNINTENTIONAL REMOVAL OF AN END OF A
GUITAR STRAP FROM AN ENLARGED GUITAR STRAP PEG OF A GUITAR

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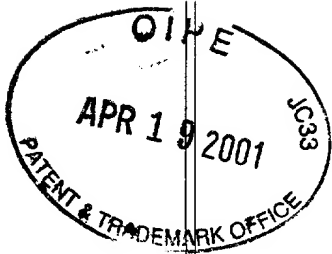
TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN that I, Bruce L. Warden,
a citizen of THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and resident of:
Rockford, IL 61107

have invented certain new and useful improvements in a(n):

DEVICE FOR PREVENTING UNINTENTIONAL REMOVAL OF AN END OF A
GUITAR STRAP FROM AN ENLARGED GUITAR STRAP PEG OF A GUITAR

of which the following is a full, clear, concise and exact
description:



1 Inventor: Bruce L. Warden
2 Invention: DEVICE FOR PREVENTING UNINTENTIONAL REMOVAL OF AN END OF A
3 GUITAR STRAP FROM AN ENLARGED GUITAR STRAP PEG OF A GUITAR
4 DOC. No.: WARB10A

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

6 Field of the Invention:

7 The present invention relates to a guitar. More particularly, the
8 present invention relates to a device for preventing unintentional removal
9 of a slot in an end of a guitar strap from an engaged guitar strap peg of
10 a guitar.

11 Description of the Prior Art:

12 Numerous innovations for guitar strap related devices have been
13 provided in the prior art that will be described. Even though these
14 innovations may be suitable for the specific individual purposes to which
15 they address, however, they differ from the present invention.

16 A FIRST EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. Des. 293,687 to Nichols teaches the
17 ornamental design for a retaining button for a guitar strap.

18 A SECOND EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. 3,894,464 to Brooks teaches an
19 improved musical instrument strap attaching, holding, and supporting
20 device and method for supporting, for example, guitars by slitted straps
21 utilizing uniquely shaped and designed retaining devices. The novel
22 attaching, holding and supporting device is usually located at the bottom
23 end of the guitar body for all types of guitars and also near the neck of
24 the guitar for electric guitars. The device includes an attachment wedge,
25 usually a screw for electric guitars or wooden wedge for either "F hole"
26 or folk or classic guitars, and a central stem portion which is
27 cylindrical in shape which mates with the attachment wedge on one end and
28 a strap retaining head on the other end. The strap retaining head is

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1 elongated at one end, forming a generally isosceles triangular shape with
2 curved corners, similar to that of a plectrum, and has a hemispherical
3 projection on its inner side facing the guitar body the combination being
4 used to support the body of the guitar by a shoulder strap or sling placed
5 between the guitar body and the strap retainer and connected by friction
6 and weight to the shoulder of the person playing the guitar and, in the
7 case of "F Hole" or folk or classic guitars, to the neck of the guitar by
8 other means such as a string. The elongated tip of the retaining head is
9 initially inserted into the slit of the strap in a lateral direction and
10 then rotated 90 degrees. The longest dimension of the retainer head is
11 preferably greater than the length of the slit, and the distance between
12 the tip of the hemispherical projection and the bottom of the central stem
13 is preferably less than the thickness of the strap.

14 A THIRD EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. 4,271,999 to Stravitz teaches a
15 guitar strap connector that comprises a body member having a slot for
16 connection of a guitar strap thereto; a generally keyhole-shaped opening
17 in the body member, the keyhole-shaped opening comprising first and second
18 holes having a passageway therebetween, the first hole being larger than
19 the second hole; and a pair of resilient spring-like members integral with
20 the body member and adjacent at least the passageway on respective
21 opposite sides of the passageway, the spring-like members being bowed
22 toward each other and each having a respective void space therebehind to
23 permit the spring-like members to flex away from each other into the void
24 spaces to permit a button connector of a guitar to be passed from the
25 larger hole resiliently through the passageway and into the smaller hole
26 wherein the button connector is engaged. Preferably, the body member is
27 integrally formed of resilient plastic material such as polypropylene.

28 A FOURTH EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. 4,993,127 to Mechem et al. teaches
29 a device for locking a guitar strap to a guitar that has a slotted base
30 with one slot for receiving a guitar strap through it, and a second slot
31 for mounting to the strap peg on the guitar. The second slot is keyhole
32 shaped and has an entry portion and a retaining portion, the entry portion

1 being large enough to receive the head of the peg, and the retaining
2 portion being narrow enough to prevent the peg head from passing through
3 it. A slot blocking lid is hinged to the base and pivotable about the
4 hinge to close so that the entry portion of the slot can be blocked when
5 the peg has been received in the retaining portion of the slot. A
6 retainer strap is secured to the base at one end remote from the hinge,
7 and extends through a slot in the lid, also remote from the hinge, and
8 fastened by a snap fastener adjacent the hinge to hold the slot blocker
9 lid in locking position until the retainer strap is intentionally
10 released. The arrangement of the retainer strap is such that it has a
11 very large mechanical advantage impeding the inadvertent release thereof.

12 A FIFTH EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. 5,868,293 to D'Addario et al.
13 teaches a quick release musical instrument strap attachment device
14 comprising a strap attachment unit which comprises a female receiving
15 quick release portion having base portion and a hollow body portion for
16 receiving and locking a male quick release portion and a first cord having
17 both ends thereof attached to the base portion of the female quick release
18 portion to form a loop and a musical instrument attachment unit comprising
19 a male quick release insertion unit which comprises a base portion and an
20 insertion means adapted for insertion and locking into the hollow body
21 portion of the female receiving quick release portion and a second cord
22 having both ends thereof attached to the base portion of the male
23 receiving quick release portion to form a loop. The strap attachment unit
24 being attachable to a strap and the musical instrument attachment unit
25 being attachable to a musical instrument.

26 A SIXTH EXAMPLE, U.S. Patent No. 5,880,384 to Beck teaches a
27 shoulder strap of an acoustic guitar or similar stringed instrument that
28 is attached to the neck of the instrument through an attachment device
29 including a looped portion which extends beneath the strings along one
30 side of the neck, and across the bottom of the neck, and along the
31 opposite side of the neck to be joined to the end portion adjacent the top
32 edge of the neck. The fastener joins the end portions together, and is

[illegible]

The novel features which are considered characteristic of the present invention are set forth in the appended claims. The invention itself, however, both as to its construction and its method of operation, together with additional objects and advantages thereof, will be best

- 1 understood from the following description of the specific embodiments when
- 2 read and understood in connection with the accompanying drawing.

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LIST OF REFERENCE NUMERALS UTILIZED IN THE DRAWING

First Embodiment

- 10 device of present invention for preventing unintentional removal
of slot 11 in end 12 of guitar strap 14 from engaged guitar strap
peg 16 of guitar 18
- 11 slot in end 12 of guitar strap 14 of guitar 18
- 12 end of guitar strap 14 of guitar 18
- 14 guitar strap of guitar 18
- 16 engaged guitar strap peg 16 of guitar 18
- 18 guitar
- 20 neck of engaged guitar strap peg 16 of guitar 18
- 22 end of neck 20 of engaged guitar strap peg 16 of guitar 18
- 24 head of engaged guitar strap peg 16 of guitar 18
- 26 body for positioning on guitar strap peg 16 of guitar 18, outboard
of guitar strap 14 of guitar 18
- 28 center of body 26
- 30 periphery of body 26
- 32 first surface of body 26 for abutting against head 24 of engaged
guitar strap peg 16 of guitar 18
- 34 second surface of body 26 for abutting against, and overpassing,
slot 11 in end 12 of guitar strap 14 of guitar 18
- 36 throughbore through body 26 for receiving neck 20 of engaged
guitar strap peg 16 of guitar 18
- 38 perimeter of throughbore 36 through body 26
- 40 chord of throughbore 36 through body 26
- 42 ends of chord 40 of throughbore 36 through body 26
- 44 throughslot through body 26 for allowing neck 20 of engaged guitar
strap peg 16 of guitar 18 to slide therein, and into throughbore
36 in body 26
- 46 pair of edges defining throughslot 44 through body 26

Second Embodiment

- 110 device of present invention for preventing unintentional removal
of slot 11 in end 12 of guitar strap 14 from engaged guitar strap
peg 16 of guitar 18
- 126 body
- 128 throughbore through body 126
- 130 periphery of body 126
- 140 chord of throughbore 128 through body 126
- 142 ends of chord 140 of throughbore 128 through body 126
- 144 throughslot through body 126
- 146 pair of edges 146 defining throughslot 144 through body 126

1 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

2 Referring now to the figures, in which like numerals indicate like
3 parts, and particularly to figures 1 and 2, the device of the present
4 invention is shown generally at 10 for preventing unintentional removal of
5 a slot 11 in an end 12 of a guitar strap 14 from an engaged guitar strap
6 peg 16 of a guitar 18.

7 The engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the guitar 18 has a neck 20 that
8 extends from the guitar 14, to an end 22, and has a contour and a
9 thickness.

10 The engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the guitar 18 further has a head
11 24 that extends radially outwardly from the end 22 of the neck 20 thereof.

12 The configuration of a first embodiment of the device 10 can best be
13 seen in figures 3-5, and as such, will be discussed with reference
14 thereto.

15 The device 10 comprises a body 26 for positioning on the guitar
16 strap peg 16 of the guitar 18, outboard of the guitar strap 14 of the
17 guitar 18 and for preventing unintentional removal of the slot 11 in the
18 end 12 of the guitar strap from the engaged guitar strap peg of the
19 guitar.

20 The body 26 is disk-shaped.

21 The body 26 has a center 28, a periphery 30, a first surface 32 that
22 is circular-shaped and is for abutting against the head 24 of the engaged
23 guitar strap peg 16 of the guitar 18, and a second surface 34 that is
24 circular-shaped, disposed oppositely to the first surface 32 thereof, and
25 is for abutting against, and overpassing, the slot 11 in the end 12 of the
26 guitar strap 14 of the guitar 18.

27 The body 26 further has a throughbore 36 that is circular-shaped,
28 has a diameter, a perimeter 38, and a chord 40 with a length and ends 42
29 that intersect the perimeter 38 of the throughbore 36 in the body 26.

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1 The diameter of the throughbore 36 in the body 26 is for being
2 slightly greater than the thickness of the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of
3 the guitar 18.

4 The length of the chord of the throughbore 36 in the body 16
5 relative to the thickness of the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the guitar
6 18 is such so as to allow the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the guitar 18
7 to slide snugly therepast.

8 The throughbore 36 in the body 26 extends through the center 28
9 thereof, from the first surface 32 thereof, to the second surface 34
10 thereof, and is for receiving the neck 20 of the engaged guitar strap peg
11 16 of the guitar 18.

12 The body 26 further has a throughslot 44 that communicates with the
13 throughbore 36 therein and the periphery 30 thereof, and is for allowing
14 the neck 20 of the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the guitar 18 to slide
15 therein, and into the throughbore 36 in the body 26, and when in the
16 throughbore 36 in the body 26, the first surface 32 of the body 26 is
17 wedged against the head 24 of the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the
18 guitar 18, and the second surface 34 of the body 26 wedges the guitar
19 strap 14 of the guitar 18 against the guitar 18, and when doing so,
20 prevents the slot 11 in the end 12 of the guitar strap 14 of the guitar 18
21 from escaping past the head 24 of the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the
22 guitar 18, and in doing so, prevents the guitar strap 14 of the guitar 18
23 from being unintentionally removed from the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of
24 the guitar 18.

25 The throughslot 44 in the body 26 is defined by a pair of edges 46
26 that equidistantly straddle a radius of the body 26, are straight, oppose
27 each other, and extend radially outwardly from the pair of ends of the
28 chord 40 of the throughbore 28 in the body 26, respectively, to the
29 periphery 30 of the body 26, where they are rounded for facilitating
30 original engagement with the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the guitar 18
31 and for eliminating guitar strap peg damaging sharp points.

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1 The perimeter 38 of the throughbore 28 in the body 26 is slightly
2 beveled completely therearound, on the first surface 32 of the body 26,
3 for conforming to the contour of the neck 20 of the engaged guitar strap
4 peg 16 of the guitar 18 so as to provide a snugger fit and for eliminating
5 a guitar strap peg damaging sharp edge.

6 The throughslot 44 in the body 26 is rectangular-shaped, and the
7 pair of edges 46 thereof are parallel to each other and spaced-apart from
8 each other a distance for allowing the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the
9 guitar 18 to slide snugly therebetween, and as a result thereof, allows
10 the device 10 to engage the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the guitar 18
11 when the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the guitar 18 is not in the
12 throughbore 28 in the body 26 so as to prevent the device 10 from jumping
13 off the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the guitar 18.

14 A second embodiment of the device 110 can best be seen in figure 6,
15 and as a result thereof, will be discussed with reference thereto.

16 The device 110 is similar to the device 10, except that:

- 17 1. The throughslot 144 in the body 126 is isosceles-triangular-shaped.
- 18 2. The pair of edges 146 of the throughslot 144 in the body 126
- 19 divergingly straddle the radius of the body 126, and extend radially
- 20 outwardly from the ends 142 of the chord 140 of the throughbore 128
- 21 in the body 126, respectively, divergingly to the periphery 130 of
- 22 the body 126 for facilitating engagement of the throughslot 144 in
- 23 the body 126 with the engaged guitar strap peg 16 of the guitar 18.

24 It will be understood that each of the elements described above, or
25 two or more together, may also find a useful application in other types of
26 constructions differing from the types described above.

27 While the invention has been illustrated and described as embodied
28 in a device for preventing unintentional removal of a slotted end of a
29 guitar strap from an engaged guitar strap peg of a guitar, however, it is
30 not limited to the details shown, since it will be understood that various
31 omissions, modifications, substitutions and changes in the forms and
32 details of the device illustrated and its operation can be made by those

1 skilled in the art without departing in any way from the spirit of the
2 present invention.

3 Without further analysis, the foregoing will so fully reveal the
4 gist of the present invention that others can, by applying current
5 knowledge, readily adapt it for various applications without omitting
6 features that, from the standpoint of prior art, fairly constitute
7 characteristics of the generic or specific aspects of this invention.

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